

REMARKS

The Applicant has carefully considered the position enunciated by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action and, in view of the arguments presented by the Examiner, the pending claims have been substantially amended. As now presented, the Applicant believes that Claims 2 and 5-20 are all in condition for allowance.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner has principally relied upon the teaching found in Sheehan. However, the Applicant believes that the teaching found in this reference has been mischaracterized by the Examiner.

In particular, the Examiner has cited element 30 as an inner sleeve member, and has asserted that the components contained thereon are equivalent to the elements detailed in Applicant's pending claims. However, a review of the teaching found in Sheehan, particularly, Column 5, lines 16-40, describes element 30 as a substantially continuous and undivided body which incorporates an outer surface 35, an interior portion 36 which is threaded, and means 40 for tightening body 30 by incorporating a plurality of flat portions 50. At best, element 30 in its entirety is equivalent to the locking ring/nut defined in pending Claim 2. However, element 30 is clearly not equivalent to the inner sleeve member defined in Claim 2.

In spite of this deficiency in the Examiner's arguments, the Applicant has extensively amended the pending claims, by canceling independent Claim 1, and amending independent Claim 2 by incorporating the limitations previously found in

dependent Claims 3 and 4. As now presented, the Applicant believes that amended Claim 2 clearly and unequivocally overcomes the teaching provided in Sheehan as well as the secondary references cited by the Examiner and, as a result, Claim 2 is in condition for allowance.

As now presented, independent Claim 2 defines an electrical connector having a housing which comprises a hollow cylindrical shape with at least one flange mounted about the outer wall of the housing, radially extending outwardly therefrom, and a threaded zone formed on the outer surface of the housing extending between the flange and the adjacent first terminating end. In addition, the electrical connector also incorporates an inner sleeve member comprising a hollow substantially cylindrical shape which incorporates two pairs of arm members extending inwardly from the inner surface of the sleeve member, positioned for mating engagement and securement with an electrical cable. Furthermore, the two pairs of arm members are further defined as (1) positioned in juxtaposed relationship to each other, and (2) formed on opposite sides of the sleeve member in spaced, cooperating, facing relationship with each other. Finally, the electrical connector is defined as incorporating a locking ring/nut constructed for threaded mounted engagement on the threaded zone of the housing for affixing the housing to a receiving hole of a receiving box/plate.

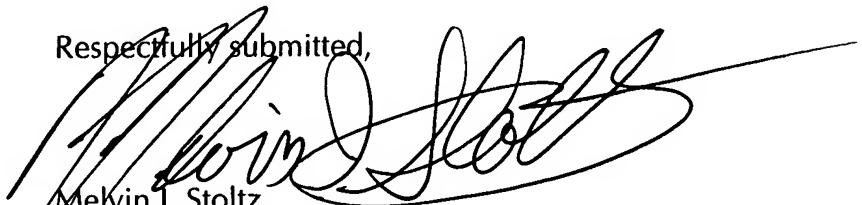
As now presented, the Applicant maintains that Claim 2 clearly and unequivocally distinguishes all of the prior art references cited by the Examiner. In particular, no prior art reference, whether considered independently or in combination, provides a

teaching or a suggestion of the combination of features and elements as defined in Claim 2. Clearly, the cited references fail to teach the construction of an inner sleeve member comprising two pairs of arm members extending inwardly from the inner surface of the sleeve member, with the two pairs of arm members being positioned in juxtaposed relationship to each other and formed on opposed sides of the sleeve member in spaced, cooperating, facing relationship with each other. As a result, the Applicant believes that Claim 2, as now amended, is clearly in condition for allowance.

Claims 5-20 are all dependent upon Claim 2 and add novel combinations thereto. For this reason, as well as the reasons stated above in reference to Claim 2, these dependent claims are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

In regard to the Examiner's objection to the subject matter defined in Claim 5 not being shown in the drawings, the Examiner's attention is directed to FIGURES 11-25, wherein alternate constructions for the arm members are shown with each arm member having a first intermediate sloping section extending from the sleeve member, and a second, sloping end section extending from the intermediate section at an angle relative thereto. Since each of the alternate embodiments for the arm members are shown and described as being interchangeable for each of the various construction's detailed in this application, the Applicant believes that the teaching found in these figures is equally applicable to the subject matter defined in Claim 5. However, if any additional clarification or further explanation is required, Applicant will comply with any reasonable request.

Based upon the foregoing Amendment, and the arguments presented herein, the Applicant believes that Claims 2 and 5-20 are now all in condition for allowance, and an early notice of allowability is earnestly solicited. Of course, if any questions remain which may be resolved in a telephone interview, Applicant's undersigned Attorney would gladly discuss such issues with the Examiner at the Examiner's convenience. For this purpose, Applicant's Attorney has provided his telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,  
  
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